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Effects of the Metropolitan Police Act (2 and 3 Vic., cap. 47, sec. 42), requiring Public Houses to be closed on the Sabbath Morning.

[Read before the Statistical Society of London, May 17th, 1841.]

By the Metropolitan Police Act, passed in 1839 (2 and 3 Vic., cap. 47, sec. 42), all public houses and places for the sale of spirituous liquors within the metropolitan police district were obliged to be closed at twelve o'clock on Saturday night, and were not allowed to be re-opened, except for travellers, until one o'clock on Sunday afternoon. The effect produced by this enactment in diminishing the prevalence of tippling, and consequently of drunkenness, on the Sabbath, is shewn by the following statement to have been very remarkable, and will afford great satisfaction to those who desire the Sabbath to be to all, as it was intended, a day of rest and edification, instead of a day of unholy excitement or brutal excess.

The Council of the Statistical Society has been favoured by the Commissioners of Police with two statements of the number of persons apprehended for Drunkenness within the metropolitan police district during the first five months of the year 1840 (four months after the Act above referred to had come into operation), and during the corresponding period of the two preceding years.* The first table shews the total number apprehended, and the second furnishes the number apprehended between the hours of twelve on Saturday night and twelve on Sunday night. The difference indicates the number apprehended during the six week days. From these data the following results are drawn:—

The total number of drunken persons apprehended on the Sunday during the first five months of 1840 was 1,328, and in the first five months of 1838-39, taking the average of the two years, 2,301; so that the total decrease in 1840 was 981 or 42 per cent.

The diminution is general throughout the whole district, but it varies in the different divisions. In six out of the seventeen divisions it does not amount to 20 per cent.; thus in Camberwell it is only 2 per cent., and in Stepney 8 per cent. In three it is between 20 and 40 per cent., and in the remaining eight divisions it exceeds 40 per cent. The most marked decrease is in the divisions situated in the centre of the metropolis. In the Holborn division it is 48 per cent., in the Covent Garden division 52 per cent., and in the St. James's division 79 per cent.

That this result is the consequence of the measure of closing the public houses in the early part of the Sunday, and not to any general increase of temperate habits among the class of persons frequenting these houses, is shewn by these tables; for while there were 981 persons less apprehended on the Sunday, during the five months of 1840, 276 more were apprehended on the other days of that year, which increase is equal to $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The total decrease, therefore, throughout the week is thus reduced to 7 per cent.; the great decrease on the one day being nearly counterbalanced by the small increase of six days. There is, however, the positive benefit of a decrease of one-fourteenth throughout the week, and of two-fifths on the Sabbath, to which must be added this important result; that the great increase during the week-days has occurred chiefly in those divisions in which the decrease was least on the Sunday, and that there has been but a slight increase, or even a diminution, on the week-days, in *all* those divisions in which the

* In the subjoined Statement the mean of the two years, 1838-39, is exhibited.

greatest decrease occurred on the Sunday. This fact proves that the increase of temperance on the Sunday has not tended to promote the prevalence of drunkenness on the week-days; and that a favourable difference throughout the week may be remarked in those parts in which the improvement on the Sunday was the greatest.

Return of the Number of Persons taken into Custody for Drunkenness by the Metropolitan Police, distinguishing those apprehended on the Sabbath, in the first Five Months of 1840, compared with the same period in 1838-39.

Divisions.	Locality.	Total Number apprehended in first 5 Months.		Number apprehended between 12 P.M. on Saturday, and 12 P.M. on Sunday.		Number apprehended on the Week Days.		Per Centage of Change in 1840, compared with 1838-39, on		
		Mean of 1838-9.	1840.	Mean of 1838-9.	1840.	Mean of 1838-9.	1840.	The whole Week.	Sundays	Week Days.
A.	Whitehall . .	157	120	27	22	130	98	23 -	18 -	24 +
B.	Westminster . .	879	802	218	122	661	680	9 -	44 -	3 +
C.	St. James's . .	1,378	948	407	85	971	863	31 -	79 -	11 -
D.	Marylebone . .	718	737	138	115	580	622	3 +	17 -	7 +
E.	Holborn . .	370	325	94	49	276	276	12 -	48 -	0
F.	Covent Garden . .	1,078	1,014	266	126	812	888	6 -	52 -	9 +
G.	Finsbury . .	840	1,080	251	176	589	904	28 +	30 -	53 +
H.	Whitechapel . .	549	511	134	79	415	432	7 -	41 -	4 +
K.	Stepney . .	574	689	154	141	420	548	20 +	8 -	30 +
L.	Lambeth . .	630	649	76	42	544	607	3 +	44 -	9 +
M.	Southwark . .	756	562	148	89	608	473	25 -	40 -	22 -
N.	Islington . .	281	298	65	45	216	253	6 +	30 -	17 +
P.	Camberwell . .	215	276	46	45	169	231	28 +	2 -	36 +
R.	Greenwich . .	352	210	75	61	277	149	40 -	19 -	46 -
S.	Hampstead . .	338	325	62	41	276	284	4 -	34 -	3 +
T.	Kennington . .	392	233	101	53	288	180	40 -	49 -	37 -
V.	Wandsworth . .	121	147	33	29	88	118	21 +	12 -	34 +
	Total . .	9,631	8,926	2,301	1,320	7,330	7,606	7 -	42 -	34 +

MISCELLANEOUS.

Table of the Imports of Cattle and Grain into Liverpool from Ireland, in the Years 1839 and 1840.

Description.		1840.			1839.
		1st Half Year.	2nd Half Year.	Total.	Total.
Cows	No.	30,101	56,555	86,656	104,897
Sheep	,,	48,522	153,527	202,049	193,101
Pigs	,,	111,429	65,217	176,646	284,835
Horses	,,	1,695	2,343	4,038	5,654
Mules	,,	71	144	215	212
Calves	,,	110	357	467	1,488
Lambs	,,	12,509	4,256	16,765	21,807
Wheat	Qrs.	29,140	31,491	60,631	64,333
Oats	,,	138,690	103,238	241,928	264,098
Barley	,,	10,270	8,667	18,937	7,317
Rye	,,	191	46	237	615
Beans	,,	4,485	1,645	6,130	4,401
Peas	,,	213	235	448	962
Malt	,,	940	1,309	2,249	451
Meal	Loads	140,367	104,436	244,803	216,375
Flour	Sacks	18,459	13,658	32,117	104,655